KENNEDY TRIP WAS CANCELED

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Georgia Politicians Feared Civil Rights Foes In '63

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 24 (AP)—The former chairman of the Georgia Democratic party, J. B. Fuqua, disclosed today that he persuaded President Kennedy to cancel a speech in Atlanta less than two months before Kennedy was assassinated.

Fuqua said Mr. Kennedy had accepted an invitation to speak during Georgia Tech's seventy-fifth anniversary October 7, 1963.

He said he was convinced that Mr. Kennedy's plans to visit Georgia were not wise because of the political turmoil and mounting opposition to the civil rights bill which was pending at the time.

Fuqua said he discussed the matter with Gov. Carl E. Sanders, and told him he was afraid of the possibility of demonstrations and feared that the President and the State of Georgia would be embarrassed.

Sanders Agreed

The political leader said Sanders agreed with him but that because he had been a party to the invitation he felt he could not revoke it.

Fuqua said he then decided to act on his own volition, and arranged with the White House for a private meeting with the President. He said he worked out plans to enter the White House by a rear entrance so he could avoid the visitors' lobby and the press area.

In an interview released by Fuqua's television station, WJBF-TV, Fuqua related that he talked frankly with Mr. Kennedy and told him of his concern about his pending visit to Georgia.

President Acceded

He said the President agreed, and canceled his speech in Atlanta.

Fuqua said he had never before disclosed the story of his secret meeting with Kennedy, and only revealed it at this time as a footnote to the assassination at Dallas a few weeks after the scheduled visit to Atlanta.

Sanders said Fuqua's story was true and added, "I was cognizant of the feeling of some of the people in the State due to civil rights legislation pending at that time."